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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC  
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SENSITIVE

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STATE FOR NEA/ELA  
TREASURY FOR MNUAGENT AND SBLEIWEISS  
USDOC FOR 4520/ITA/MAC/ONE  
NSC FOR ABRAMS/RAMCHAND/YERGER/MCDERMOTT  
STATE PASS USAID FOR BEVER/LAUDATO/SCOTT

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SUBJECT: LEBANON STARTS DISBURSING ASSISTANCE TO GAZA; LAUNCHES  
CAMPAIN FOR CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

SUMMARY

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1. (SBU) Lebanon has begun disbursing its \$1 million assistance pledge to Gaza, sending a first shipment of medical supplies and blankets via Jordan on January 3. Subsequent deliveries will depend on needs submitted by the Palestinian Health Ministry in Gaza. The Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee also launched a media campaign asking for cash donations for Gaza. End summary.

2. (SBU) After the Lebanese cabinet's \$1 million assistance pledge to Gaza on December 30, Lebanon sent its first shipment of in-kind assistance to Gaza by plane via Jordan on January 3. The shipment consisted of 17 tons of medical supplies and equipment as well as 2,060 blankets, which were delivered to Gaza through the Hashemite Association and UNRWA, according to Lebanese Health Ministry Advisor Dr. Rasha Hamra. Ambassador Khalil Mekkawi, head of the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee, estimated the value of this first load of assistance to be approximately \$200,000.

3. (SBU) Lebanon will send subsequent deliveries to fulfill the million-dollar pledge based on needs submitted by the Palestinian Health Ministry in Gaza, Mekkawi and Hamra told us separately. The Lebanese Health Ministry and the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee are coordinating efforts to provide the aid. Mekkawi said he would inquire about the Gaza Health Ministry's additional needs over the next week. Meanwhile, the Lebanese Health Ministry is working to secure medical supplies to send to Gaza, Hamra told us.

4. (SBU) In its December 30 meeting, the cabinet also approved the launch of a campaign to collect contributions for Gaza. After the new year, the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee launched a media campaign appealing to the Lebanese to contribute money for Gaza, and opened an account under its name at the Central Bank of Lebanon for this purpose, Mekkawi told us. He does not know how much money has been deposited into this account to date, but said that as yet no money has been transferred from this account to Gaza.

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